



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARMS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of stolen firearms.

Brandon Spoon, 20, of Springfield, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to two counts of federal firearms violations.

By pleading guilty to the first count, **Spoon** admitted that he was a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2002, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm, ammunition or explosives. **Spoon** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for assault in Wright County, Mo.

By pleading guilty to the second count, **Spoon** admitted that he was in possession of stolen firearms between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2002, in Greene County.

Spoon was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2003, in Springfield.

Under federal law, **Spoon** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow